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NOTE ON MERCUROUS SULFATE FOR STANDARD CELLS.

By H. P. CADY, University of Kansas, Lawrence.

CARHART and Hullet have recently recommended that the mercurous sulfate used in the preparation of Clark or cadmium standard cells be prepared electrolytically by using an anode of pure mercury, a cathode of platinum and sulfuric acid as the electrolyte. The mercurous sulfate prepared in this way is crystalline in character and gives very uniform results when made up into cells. It is, however, somewhat troublesome to make and the process is a rather slow one.

A sample of mercurous sulfate, a so-called C. P. article, which gave cells differing from the true value by nearly a millivolt, was rubbed up with a little mercury and kept on a hot plate under dilute sulfuric acid for some hours. At the end of this treatment the sulfate was crystalline and gave cells which agreed almost exactly with those prepared from the electrolytically prepared sulfate. It is easier to buy mercurous sulfate and purify it by the above process than to prepare it by the electrolysis, and the product seems to be as good.